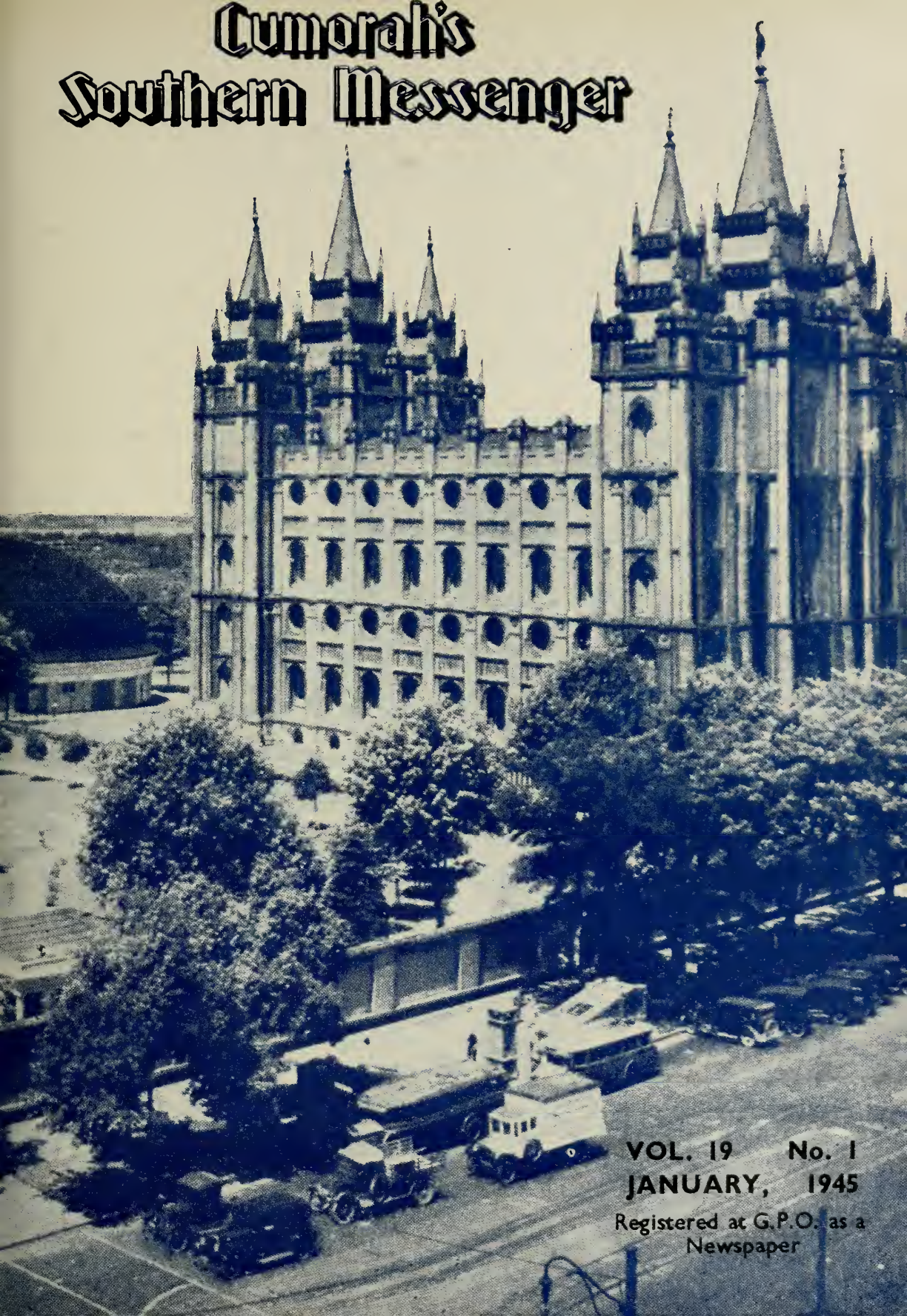
Cumorah's Southern Messenger



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Pres. Heber J. Grant's Conference Message

This special message by President Grant was read at the opening session of the 115th Semi-Annual General Conference, Friday, October 6, at 10 a.m., in the Salt Lake Tabernacle.

AGAIN, my brethren, I am privileged to be with you in another general conference of the Church, and I bear testimony that I know it is by the healing and sustaining power of God that I am here. In another six or seven weeks, the Lord being willing, I shall begin the eighty-ninth year of my life; and shall have completed sixty-two years since I became one of the apostles; and shall have served twenty-six years as president of the Church. In all this, and in much else, the Lord has blessed me richly; and I am grateful I can say that I am better now than I have been during some of the weeks and months just passed. I come to the office nearly every day, and I refrain from speaking to you now only on counsel of my doctor, whose advice I usually take.

I thank the Latter-day Saints from the bottom of my heart for their faith and for their prayers in supplicating God in my behalf, for his spirit, for health, for vigour in body and mind. I am here as a witness that God does hear and answer prayer, and I pray that his blessings may be upon Israel and upon all honest men everywhere.

Blessing to those who work in the Church.

I desire especially to extend my blessing to all the men and women who preside in all the stakes of Zion throughout the the Church, in all the missions, in all the wards, in all the quorums of the priesthood, and in all the auxiliary organizations. I am convinced beyond the shadow of a doubt that there cannot be found in any part of the world other men and women giving so unselfishly of their time, of their talents, and of the best that is in them, for the salvation of the souls of men. I am satisfied that there are no other people who are devoting more of their time, of their money, of their thoughts, and of their very being for the advancement of God's work at home and abroad, than are the Latter-day Saints. And with all the power that God has given me, I desire to bless the men and women who are thus giving their time and thought and are setting examples that are worthy of imitation, not only to those over whom they preside, but to all men. Every man and woman who is labouring for the salvation of the souls of men and keeping the commandments of God is entitled to be blessed, and I pray God that his blessings may come to them.

Faith and Protection of our Youth.

Particularly in this critical time, do I pray for the youth of this generation, and for all those who labour for and with them, and who are responsible for their instruction. Their lives are beset by many temptations and evils and designs by those whom the Lord has chosen to refer to as "conspiring men." I pray that those who are at home and those who are away, in the armed forces and elsewhere, will be kept from evil in all its forms, by the prayers and righteous examples of their parents, by remembrance of the teachings in their homes and Church, by their faithfulness and prayerfulness, and by the protecting influence of the angles of heaven.

There comes to mind an experience in connection with my brother, Fred, after our father died. Because of the mistreatment of a stepfather, and neglect, as a young man my brother ran away, and I was told by Brother Mariner W. Merrill, at that time bishop of Richmond, Utah, that the night after my brother ran away, he, Brother Merril, went to bed rebellious. He said:

"I turned to my wife, Sister Merrill, and said, 'I feel that the Lord should have inspired me to take that boy away from the man who has reared him. He has abused and beaten him. His father is dead, and his mother has left the Church and now he has gone out into the world with no hope that he will ever come back again.'"

And that night, so Brother Merrill told me, he had a dream in which he saw my brother in all kinds of wicked company in many different states, and he saw that a light surrounded him. In the dream he said: "What does that light mean?" And a voice answered: "That is the influence that a faithful, God-fearing and God-serving father can have over a son to keep him from going astray, and to eventually bring him back to the truth."

Years later when my brother did come back and joined the Church, as I related here last conference, he fulfilled Brother Merrill's dream, because Brother Merrill said that he saw him labouring all over the Church, bringing wayward boys to a knowledge of the truth, and he did labour from Canada to Mexico in that service.

I am sure that we need a light to surround our boys and girls in this day, and I pray that the protecting influence of faithful, God-fearing, God-serving parents may follow them and keep them wherever they go. I believe that with the faithfulness and obedience of parents and proper influence in the home, and with proper instruction and example to youth, we can keep them from all the temptations of the evil one.

I sympathize with our young people because of these temptations that beset them. I urge them, as I always have, to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ fully. In that way they will have health and happiness and will meet with success in this life and will have an eternity of joy in store for them in the life to come. I bless them with courage to meet the problems that lie ahead.

Concerning Chastity.

I want to say also at this time that the crying evil of the age is lack of chastity. There is but one standard of morality in the Church of Christ. We have been taught, thousands of us who have been reared in this Church from our childhood days, that second only to murder is the sin of losing our chastity; and I want to say to the fathers and to the mothers, and to the sons and daughters, in our Primary, in our Mutual Improvement Association, in our seminaries and institutes, in Sunday School, in the Relief Society, and in all of our priesthood quorums—I want it understood that the use of liquor and tobacco is one of the chief means in the hands of the adversary whereby he is enabled to lead boys and girls from chastity.

Nearly always those who lose their chastity first partake of those things that excite passions within them or lower their resistance and becloud their minds. Partaking of tobacco and liquor is calculated to make them a prey to those things which, if indulged in, are worse than death itself. There is no true Latter-day Saint who would not rather bury a son or a daughter than to have him or her lose his or her chastity —realizing that chastity is of more value than anything else in all the wide world.

The devil is ready to blind our eyes with the things of this world, and he would gladly rob us of eternal life, the greatest of all gifts. But it is not given to the devil, and no power will ever be given to him, to overthrow any Latter-day Saint who is keeping the commandments of God. There is no power given to the adversary of men's souls to destroy us if we are doing our duty. But if we are not absolutely honest with God, then we let the bars down, then we have destroyed part of the fortifications by which we are protected, and the devil may come in. But no man who was chaste and who is keeping the other commandments of the Lord has ever lost the testimony of the gospel, no man who had the knowledge of the truth has ever turned to the right or to the left, who was attending to his duties, who was keeping the Word of Wisdom, who was paying his tithing, who was responding to the calls and duties of his office and calling in the Church.

More than ever before, we as a people are scattered abroad throughout the world, we carry upon our shoulders the reputation, so to speak, of the Church, every one of us. And the young men and young women of to-day who think they are being smart by getting a little wine and a little liquor in their homes, and doing that which the Lord tells them not to do, are laying a foundation that will lead to their destruction eventually. They cannot go on breaking the commandments of the Lord without getting into the rapids. And what are the

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LETTER TO JOSEPH SMITH

Editor, the Department of Education; Instructor, the L.D S. Missionary Home; Principal, West Seminary; Teacher, L.D.S. Business College

27th June, 1944.

MY beloved Joseph Smith,

I do not know why I am writing this letter, for even as I write, I am aware that you have been dead these hundred years. Perhaps it is because I know that that body, felled by the mob on that fateful June afternoon, was not you at all, that you are alive and vibrant now as in those days when you stirred the world with revealed ideas and moved people with fearless actions.

Certainly the work you so nobly began is going forward as though your hand were reaching out through the years to guide it, and as I contemplate the million souls, whose lives are patterned on the ideas God unfolded to you, it seems only that I am viewing you in your maturity and witnessing a mighty strength which I might have missed had I walked in your sight in those formative years.

And yet—would that I had known you. Would that I might have felt the kindness of your glance, the sympathy of your voice, and the tenderness of your hands. I might almost have become for a time your enemy, to have felt the deep fervour of your forgiveness. To have received such a letter as that you sent to William W. Phelps, after he had wronged you, would have been sweet indeed. I quote lines from it now to show you how I treasure and remember them after all these years:

> " You may, in some measures realize what my feelings, as well as Elder Rigdon's and Brother Hyrum's were, when we read your letter—truly our hearts were melted into tenderness and compassion when we ascertained your resolves. Inasmuch as longsuffering, patience, and mercy have ever characterized the dealings of our Heavenly Father toward the humble and penitent, I feel disposed to copy the example, cherish the same principles, and by so doing be a saviour of my fellow men.
>
> " It is true that we have suffered much in consequence of your behaviour—the cup of gall, already full enough for mortals to drink, was indeed filled to overflowing when you turned against us. One with whom we had often taken sweet council together, and enjoyed many refreshing seasons from the Lord—' had it been an enemy, we could have borne it.'
>
> " Believing your confession to be real, and your repentance genuine, I shall be happy once again to give you the right hand of fellowship, and rejoice over the returning prodigal. . . . Come on, dear brother, since the war is past—for friends at first, are friends again at last."

The spirit of compassion and forgiveness in that letter wipes from my memory all the lies and evil things which men have told me of you.

When you declared, " The glory of God is intelligence, or in other words, light and truth," you put forever in your debt all those who seek God in an enlightened age. But you have not only brought light upon the nature of God, you have caused me to realize that man is his offspring, and thus created the only possible postulate upon which can ever be built a lasting brotherhood among men.

In an age of skeptics and doubters you have found purpose and design in creation. An entire philosophy might be built upon that grand sentence found in the Book of Mormon, " Men are that they might have joy." That idea bespeaks the death knell of the ascetic—it is the password to wholesome recreation and joyous living. You would take a pride in the programme for happiness which that idea has called forth in the Church you brought into being.

You dignified both God and man when you brought to light God's pronouncement, " This is my work and my glory, to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man."

The age-old turmoil of Christian thought over the place of wealth seems childish when I read these glorious lines:

"Think of your brethren like unto yourselves, and be familiar with all and free with substance, that they may be rich like unto you.

"But before ye seek for riches, seek ye for the kingdom of God.

"And after that ye have obtained a hope in Christ we shall obtain riches if ye seek them; and ye will seek them for the intent to do good—to clothe the naked, and to feed the hungry, and to liberate the captive, and to administer relief to the sick and the afflicted."

That statement alone will be an eternal monument to your work and an everlasting condemnation of man-made poverty.

I shall ever be grateful that you have taken superstition out of religion, and given the basis upon which we may build an intelligent faith. I believe that I catch something of your great thought when you say:

"There is a law, irrevocably decreed in heaven before the foundation of this world, upon which all blessings are predicated—And when we obtain any blessing from God it is by obedience to the law upon which it is predicted."

When intolerance and narrow-mindedness surround me, I am cheered and heartened by your declaration on the goodness and mercy of our Father in heaven. I like especially these lines of yours:

". . . while one portion of the human race is judging and condemning the other without mercy, the Great Parent of the universe looks upon the whole of the human family with a fatherly care and paternal regard. He views them as His offspring, and without any of those protracted feelings that influence the children of men, causes 'His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.' He holds the rein of judgment in His hands; He is a wise lawgiver, and will judge all men, not according to the narrow, contracted notions of men, but 'according to the deeds done in the body, whether they be good or evil,' or whether these deeds were done in England, America, Spain, Turkey or India. He will judge them, 'not according to what they have not, but according to what they have,' those who have lived without law, will be judged without law; and those who have a law will be judged by that law."

Joseph, you are more than a national character. Your God-given ideas of universal salvation are the hope of the whole world. The eternal truths you taught belong to the nations.

It should please you to see how well the Church organization works in so many lands and under so many types of government—how it has been flexible enough to meet all elements of change and growth of membership, while retaining the democratic principles you laid down on the day the Church came into being. I will not say that you built "better than you knew," for you never once doubted that your teachings were of God, nor do I doubt them now. . . .

I look upon your own entrance into that other world on that fateful June day as sweet. On this hundredth anniversary of your death, I have cause only to rejoice—for in the grace of the Almighty you are not lost to mankind—you are only beginning to be found.

Affectionately,

WILLIAM E. BERRETT.

It's good to have money and the things that money can buy, but it's good, too, to check up once in a while and make sure you haven't lost the things that money can't buy.—George Horace Latimer.

The law of worthy life is fundamentally the law of strife. It is only through labour and painful effort, by grim energy and resolute courage, that we move on to better things.—Theodore Roosevelt.

The man who trusts men will make fewer mistakes than he who distrusts them.—Cavour.

Pres. Heber J. Grant's Conference Message.—From page 3.

rapids? The rapids of moderate drinking, nine times out of ten, lead to excessive drinking, and excessive drinking leads to the destruction of body and of mind and of faith.

Any Latter-day Saint who actually believes in the commandments contained in the Doctrine and Covenants must have no regard for advancement in life when he fails to keep what is known as the Word of Wisdom. There is absolutely no benefit to any human being derived from breaking the Word of Wisdom, but there is everything for his benefit, morally, intellectually, physically, and spiritually in obeying it.

What does the Lord say to those who obey his commandments?:

> "*And all saints who remember to keep and do these sayings, walking in obedience to the commandments, shall receive health in their navel and marrow to their bones;*
>
> "*And shall find wisdom and great treasures of knowledge, even hidden treasures;*
>
> "*And shall run and not be weary, and shall walk and not faint.*
>
> "*And I, the Lord, give unto them a promise, that the destroying angel shall pass by them, as the children of Israel, and not slay them.*"

May every father and mother so order their lives that their example will be an inspiration to their children, and may all realize that every Latter-day Saint carries, to a certain extent, upon his or her shoulders the reputation of the Church of Christ. We are trying to raise our children to be God-fearing, and to live lives worthy of the imitation of all men. May we read the revelations of the Lord Almighty and his Son Jesus Christ, that have been given to us, as contained in the Doctrine and Covenants; may we read them with a prayerful and a humble heart, seeking God for power and strength to live them, whether we are at home or away from home; and may we listen and give heed to the counsel of our leaders who are with us to-day, I pray with all the power that I possess.

The Power of Prayer.

I have litte or no fear for the boy or the girl, the young man or the young woman, who honestly and conscientiously supplicates God daily for the guidance of his spirit. I am sure that when temptation comes they will have the strength to overcome it by the inspiration that shall be given to them. Supplicating the Lord for the guidance of his Spirit places around us a safeguard, and if we earnestly and honestly seek the guidance of the Spirit of the Lord, I can assure you that we will receive it. I am convinced that one of the greatest and one of the best things in all the world to keep a man true and faithful in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, is to supplicate God secretly in the name of his Son, for the guidance of his holy Spirit.

I am convinced that one of the greatest things that can come into any home to cause the boys and girls in that home to grow up in a love of God, and in a love of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is to have family prayer. It is not for the father of the family alone to pray, but for the mother and for the children to do so also, that they may partake of the spirit of prayer, and be in harmony with the spirit of the Lord. I believe that there are very few who go astray, that very few lose their faith, who have once had a knowledge of the gospel, and who never neglect their prayers in their families, and their secret supplications to God.

But the minute a man stops supplicating God for his spirit and direction, just so soon he starts out to become a stranger to him and his works. When men stop praying for God's Spirit, they place confidence in their own unaided reason, and they gradually lose the Spirit of God, just the same as near and dear friends, by never writing to or visiting with each other, will become strangers. We should all pray that God may never leave us alone for a moment without his Spirit to aid and assist us in withstanding sin and temptation.

I want to say that my heart goes out in the deepest sympathy and in as deep and sincere prayer as I have ever offered for the comforting influence of the Lord to be given to the brethren and sisters who have sons and brothers and fathers and husbands in the war at the present time. I pray that the Lord will bless each and every boy who has gone into the service, and that he will help each of them to live in accordance with

the principles of the gospel, so that each may have a claim to the blessings of the Lord to the full extent that accords with his wisdom.

I am praying with all my heart and soul for the end of this war as soon as the Lord can see fit to have it stop. And to those homes that have been sorrowed by the loss of loved ones through death, may the peace and understanding and comfort of our Father in heaven be there unfailingly. And to you who are bereaved by the cruelty of war, I say, do not look forward to a life of care and trouble and anxiety, but look only to the duties and responsibilities of a single day, and by performing the duties each day that rest upon you, the burdens will be lightened, notwithstanding all the sorrow that may come into your lives and the many things that may be hard for you to bear.

I know the anguish of your feelings, and I can say this to you out of the sorrows of my own ilfe. I have been blessed with only two sons. One of them died at five years of age and the other at seven. My last son died of a hip disease. I had built great hopes that he would live to spread the gospel at home and abroad and be an honour to me. But he was taken, as some of your sons have been taken. And never in my life am I so grateful for the Gospel of Jesus Christ as I am when some of my family or beloved friends are called home to their final reward. There is nothing in the revelations of God to Joseph Smith for which I am more grateful than the following quotations from what is known as "The Vision," namely, the 76th section of the Doctrine and Covenants:

"And this is the gospel, the glad tidings, which the voice out of the heavens bore record unto us—

"That he came into the world, even Jesus, to be crucified for the world, and to sanctify the world, and to cleanse it from all unrighteousness;

"That through him all might be saved whom the Father had put into his power and made by him;

"Who glorifies the Father, and saves all the works of his hands, except those sons of perdition who deny the Son after the Father has revealed him." (D. and C. 76:40-43.)

"And now, after the many testimonies which have been given of him, this is the testimony, last of all, which we give of him: That he lives;

"For we saw him, even on the right hand of God; and we heard the voice bearing record that he is the Only Begotten of the Father—

"That by him, and through him, and of him, the worlds are and were created, and the inhabitants thereof are begotten sons and daughters unto God." (D. and C. 76:22-24.)

I know as well as I know anything in this life that Jesus Christ is in very deed the Saviour of mankind, and that God has seen fit to establish the Church of Jesus Christ upon the earth. I thank the Lord that I have an abiding knowledge of God, our Father, and Jesus Christ, his Son, and that I have pleasure in bearing witness to all the world of this knowledge that I possess.

Death has no real terror to any true Latter-day Saint. A faithful Latter-day Saint has been blessed with a testimony of the divinity of the work in which we are engaged, and he knows that when he passes to the other side he will have an eternity of joy and happiness, and this I promise you—you who have lived righteously and who offer your lives in the service of your country, and you who live righteously and are left to wait, and sometimes to mourn.

Every faithful Latter-day Saint believes that the Constitution of the United States was inspired of God, and that this choice land and this nation have been preserved until now in the principles of liberty under the protection of God.

Here are some of Lincoln's statements:

"Let the people know the truth, and the country is safe."

"Let none falter who thinks he is right, and we will succeed."

"Let us dare to do our duty as we understand it."

The following quotation from Abraham Lincoln with respect to the observance of law is also worth repeating often:

"Let every American, every lover of liberty, every wellwisher to his posterity,

swear by the blood of the revolution never to violate, in the least particular, the laws of the country, and never to tolerate their violation by others. As the patriots of seventy-six did to the support of the Declaration of Indepence, so to the support of the Constitution and laws let every American pledge his life, his property, and his sacred honour. Let every man remember that to violate the law is to trample on the blood of his father, and to tear the charter of his own and his children's liberty. Let reverence for the law be breathed by every American mother to the lisping babe that prattles on her lap. Let it be taught in schools, in seminaries, and in colleges. Let it be written in primers, in spelling books, and almanacs. Let it be preached from the pulpit, proclaimed in legislative halls, and enforced in courts of justice. In short, let it become the Political Religion of the Nation."

I quote here two verses from a declaration of the Church contained in Section 134 of the Doctrine and Covenants, regarding our belief in governments and laws in general, as adopted by a unanimous vote of a general assembly of the Church over a century ago:

> "*We believe that governments were instituted of God for the benefit of man, and that he holds men accountable for their acts in relation to them, both in making laws and administering them for the good and safety of society.*
>
> "*We believe that no government can exist in peace, except such laws are framed and held inviolate as will secure to each individual the free exercise of conscience, the right and control of property, and the protection of life.*"

These principles are fundamental to our belief, fundamental to our protection. And in the providences of the Lord, the safeguards which have been incorporated into the basic structure of this nation are, if we preserve them, the guarantee of all men who dwell here against abuses, tyrannies, and usurpations. From my childhood days I have understood that we believe absolutely that the Constitution of our country is an inspired instrument, and that God directed those who created it and those who defended the independence of this nation. Concerning this matter it is my frequent pleasure to quote the statement by Joseph Smith regarding the Constitution:

> "*The Constitution of the United States is a glorious standard; it is founded in the wisdom of God. It is a heavenly banner; it is, to all those who are privileged with the sweets of liberty, like the cooling shades and refreshing waters of a great rock in a weary and thirsty land. It is like a great tree under whose branches men from every clime can be shielded from the burning rays of the sun.*"

And such the Constitution of the United States must be to every faithful Latter-day Saint who lives under its protection. That the Lord may help him to think straight, and to pursue a straight course regardless of personal advantage, factional interest, or political persuasion, should be the daily prayer of every Latter-day Saint. I counsel you, I urge you, I plead with you, never, so far as you have voice or influence, permit any departure from the principles of government on which this nation was founded, or any disregard of the freedoms which by the inspiration of God our Father, were written into the Constitution of the United States.

Let us realize that God is mightier than all the earth. Let us realize that if we are faithful in keeping the commandments of God and cherishing the principles inspired of him, his promises will be fulfilled to the very letter. For he has said that not one jot or tittle shall fall to the ground unfilled. The trouble is, the adversary of men's souls blinds their minds. He throws dust, so to speak, in their eyes, and they are blinded with the things of this world, and the adversary obtains power over them, and robs them of their freedom, which is what he tried to do in the beginning.

I say to you, Latter-day Saints, that the pearl of great price is life eternal. God has told us that the greatest of all the gifts he can bestow upon man is life eternal. We are labouring for that great gift, and it will be ours if we keep the commandments of God. One fundamental thing for a Latter-day Saint is to be honest. Another is to value his word as faithfully as

(Continued on page 12.)

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

Cape District.

The Mowbray Annual Primary Birthday Party was held on December 2nd at Cumorah. The performance of the children on the stage was very fine. The social and refreshments were enjoyed by all.

On December 14th the M.I.A. treasure hunt and refreshment evening was successfully conducted by Sister Edith Wüd.

A farewell testimonial was held at Cumorah on December 10th, honouring Brother Edwin Joseph Jakins, prior to his departure for his missionary duties in the East London and Grahamstown districts. Brother Jakins will fill a full two years' mission.

Sister Ruby Hearne, of the Mowbray Branch, recently received the marriage announcement of Margaret Virginia Holsinger to Elder Terrell R. Woodmansee, Lieut. Junior Grade U.S.N.R. They were married 21st August, 1944, in San Francisco.

Regular weekly Cottage Meetings have been started in the Mowbray Branch to which members and friends have been invited. A study of "Jesus the Christ" by Dr. James B. Talmadge, is being enjoyed by those who attend. Thursday evening, December 21st, the Mowbray Sunday School had their Xmas Party, attended by a large gathering. Xmas presents were presented to the children by our good friend, Mr. Santa Claus, and refreshments were the closing event.

During November, the family and the members of the Mowbray Branch, enjoyed the three weeks' visit of Lieut. Sam Rayner. In December, Capt. Dan Cherrett spent six days at home with his family and friends.

We are very pleased to note the recovery of Brother Arthur Gilberson who was confined to his bed for several weeks with a serious illness.

We sorrow with Sister Violet Taylor in the loss of her mother, who passed away recently.

Durban.

In a telegram from Brother Louis Duncan, President of the Durban Branch, we received the very sad news of the death of Brother Kenneth Fagan. Word having just been received from Up North of his death. During these times of war and strife, many homes are receiving news of the loss of loved ones, and sorrows are daily multiplying. Words of comfort and consolation fail to relieve the sorrowing, and only the peace that comes from Our

Sig. Fagan

Heavenly Father, can bring the comfort that is so greatly needed when a loss comes home to us. We wish to express the heartfelt sympathy of all the friends and members of the Church to Brother and Sister Fagan in this loss.

Transvaal District.—Springs.

Sister Veronica Jakins spent part of her vacation in Springs. The Sunday School Xmas Party was one of the finest events of the year. On 10th December, Sister Mercia Muir and Brother Frank Donly were the speakers at the Sunday evening service; 41 were in attendance. Springs Branch subscribed toward a cable sent to President Heber J. Grant for his birthday greetings; President Grant was 88 years of age on 22nd November.

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Branch Teachers' Message, January, 1945

GET OUT OF DEBT

OUR leaders have cautioned us continuously to pay up our obligations and to live within our incomes. Time was when Latter-day Saints listened seriously to this counsel. Some are still listening and doing their best to follow this admonition. Blessings will follow their obedience. It is feared, however, that many are rather heedless to this counsel.

One person is reported to have said, "Getting out of debt is all right, but I've been skimping and paying interest so long that now I'm going to enjoy the luxuries and pleasures I have not been able to afford before. I'll worry about the debts later on." Yes, this person may be very certain that he will worry about his debts "later on." His worry and regrets may begin much sooner and last much longer than he suspects.

Speaking on this same subject, a farmer said, "When the general authorities of the Church advise me to pay up my obligations and get out of debt, it means to me that they see something ahead that possibly I do not see. It is the word of the Lord and I'm lining up." He is right. It is the word of the Lord, and it is wisdom to so look upon it.

Of course, it is our own business whether we listen to, or ignore, the counsel of our leaders. They have no disposition to dictate to us. They are the servants of the Lord to his people. They speak to us as the Lord directs. Our Father in heaven has continuously urged them to suggest that we "get out of debt." The wise among us will obey this counsel.

Some of the "boom" plants have already shut down. It is reported that in some instances, many employees, drawing fabulous salaries, were destitute within thirty days following these shutdowns. If re-employment had not been readily available, they would have been standing in the proverbial "bread line" almost immediately. It is safe to assume that some of these are among those who pay little or no attention to the counsel of the Lord as given through the leaders of the Church.

Men and women in nearly every commercial activity are being paid wages beyond their fondest dreams. The demand for help and the lure of "big money" have reached far down into the teen-age group. We are riding on the crest of a wave of prosperity. *Let us not forget that waves have a habit of flattening out when the cause of their turbulance is removed or of beating themselves into uselessness upon the shore.* Those who thoughtlessly, carelessly, disregard this fact, in financial affairs, must inevitably share the same fate.

But we can profit from these prosperous times if we will. No matter what our financial status is, it will be a great shock to us when the present *wave* is stilled. But bills and debts marked "paid in full" will cushion the shock and make for an easy and far more pleasant adjustment.

(Continued foot of next column.)

Sunday School Sacrament Gem and Concert Recitations for January, 1945

SACRAMENT GEM.

In memory of the broken flesh,
We eat the broken bread;
And witness with the cup afresh,
Our faith in Christ our Head.

GOSPEL DOCTRINE.

Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.
Heb. 8:9.

GOSPEL MESSAGE.

Since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.
1 Cor. 21:22.

SENIORS.

Behold, all things have been done in the wisdom of him who knoweth all things. Adam fell that men might be, and men are that they might have joy.—2 Nephi 24:25.

JUNIORS.

For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law; and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law.
Rom. 2:12.

INTERMEDIATE CLASSES.

By grace are ye saved through faith; and that (faith) not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.

PRIMARY.

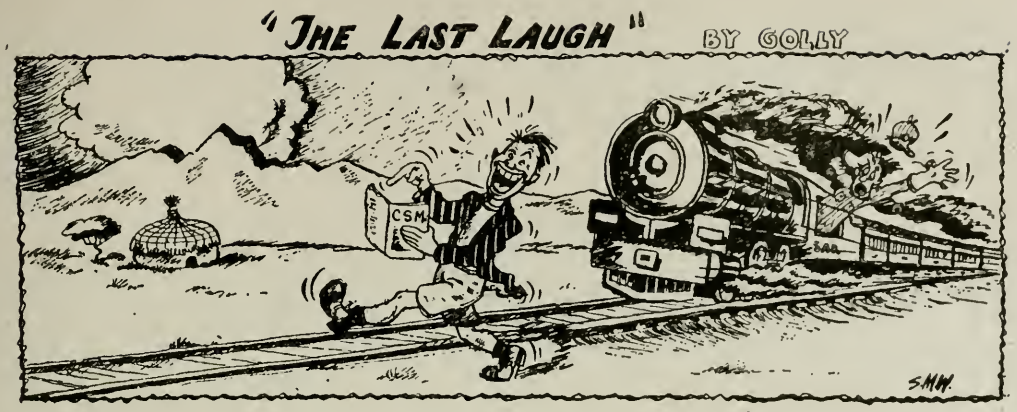
Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy.—1 Cor. 3:16.

KINDERGARTEN.

We thank Thee, Heavenly Father,
For parents kind and good.
For teachers, too, who help us
To do the things we should.

Branch Teachers' Message.—From preceding column.

"Get out of debt," "Stay out of debt," "Live within your incomes,"—these and kindred exhortations from our leaders are familiar to us all. Think seriously and beget wisdom. Be wise and obey, now.



Visitor: "Are your father and mother in?"
Gerald: "They was in, but they is out."
Visitor: "They was in, they is out! Where's your grammar?"
Gerald: "She's upstairs."

Travelling salesman to country storekeeper: "I'd like a straw hat, please."
Storekeeper, slightly deaf: "Hey?"
Salesman: "No! Straw."

Rooseveltian.

"The next person who interrupts the proceedings will be sent home," declared the judge.
"Hurray," yelled the prisoner. "Where's my hat?"

There once was a girl named Passion,
I took her on a date,
We went into a restaurant,
My, how passionate!

Once when girls went down to swim
They dressed like Mother Hubbard.
But now they have a bolder whim
And dress more like her cupboard.

Kissing.

"Kissing is a spread of germs
That's what I've heard it stated.
But you can kiss me, honey,
'Cause I've been vaccinated."

Jackie: "What's the matter, Alan? You look mournful."
Alan: "That the trouble, I am more'n full."

Strange that men call money "dough." Dough sticks to your fingers.

Ruth rode on my motor bike
Directly back of me
I hit a bump going 65
And rode on ruthlessly.

Members of the younger generation are alike in many disrespects.

Oh where is my wandering boy to-night,
Is he near or is he far?
Oh where is my wandering boy to-night,
And also where is the car?

About the only thing left in this world that can be shocked is grain.

True.

Teacher: "What is it that Brazil produces more than any other country?"
Pupil: "Brazilians."

Just a Cut-up.

Customer: "Barber, have you another razor?"
Barber: "Yeah. Why?"
Customer: "I'd like to defend myself."

Help.

Teacher: "Willie, will you give me a sentence with the word fascinate in?"
Willie: "Well, my sister has a dress with ten buttons down the back, but she is so fat she can only fascinate."

Boy's Life.

Many a man who in his time has cast sheep's eyes at a pretty girl, has afterwards had the wool pulled over them.

A stitch in time saves embarrassment.

The reason for Hitler's sour look is because he wakes up on the wrong side of the channel every morning.

Felicia: "What's the big idea of sending that spinach to the anti-waste?"
Jimmy: "I read that spinach has iron in it."

Pres. Heber J. Grant's Conference Message.—From page 8.

his bond; to make up his mind that under all circumstances, no matter how hard it may be, by and with the help of the Lord, he will dedicate his life and his best energies to making good his promise; and that he will not permit some personal advantage to cause him ever to compromise his principles.

I say to you that it is not an insignificant thing to hold the priesthood of God—to have the right to influence the powers of the heavens for good; and it is not a slight thing for us to neglect to honour the priesthood of God in those who preside over us, nor to ignore them in their counsel. My faith is such that I could lay down all that I possess rather than ever depart from the Latter-day work. I value all things as nothing in comparison with having the Spirit of God to guide me. And I promise you, as a servant of the living God, that every man and woman who obeys the commandments of God shall prosper in righteousness, that every promise made of God shall be fulfilled upon their heads, and that they will grow and increase in wisdom, light, knowledge, intelligence, and above all, in the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ. May God help each and every one of us who has a knowledge of the gospel to live it, that our lives may preach its truth.

I leave with you my testimony that God lives, that Jesus is the Christ, that Joseph Smith was and is a prophet of God. How do I know it? I know it as well as I know that I live. I know heat; I know cold; I know joy, and I know sorrow; and say to you that in the hour of sorrow, in the hour of affliction, in the hour of death, God has heard and answered my prayers, and I know that he lives. I leave my testimony with you.

May God give direction to all of the utterances of this conference. May he bless our youth away, and us at home, and give his direction to the leaders of nations, and speedily bring about the accomplishment of his purposes. May he bless you, one and all, and every honest man and woman that lives upon the face of the earth, is my humble prayer, and I ask it in humility in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

District Highlights.—From page 9.

North Western Branch.

Sister Cecelia Mans is recovering from a very serious operation. Hansie, son of Brother and Sister Stephen Brummer, was recently admitted to the Cottesloe Military Hospital for observation. Bro. A. J. McKnight and Miss Martha Lourens were married at Ramah by Bro. Norman G. Muir on 2nd December, and the same day the engagement of N. H. van Staden and Eileen N. G. Hollingworth was announced. Our heartiest congratulations to these couples.

Liahona.

Sister Queenie Brown and children are spending a month's holiday with her parents, Bro. and Sister Fred Ninow, in Cape Town. Bro. Ken Sutherland is improving nicely from his recent operation. A fine picnic was enjoyed at Wemmer Pan; rain terminated the outing earlier than planned. Sister Ariel Smith has recovered from burns about the face.

Krugersdorp.

Bro. Vincent Fouche, of Roodepoort, paid us a farewell visit prior to his departure " Up North " with the signallers.

Ramah.

Sister Susan and Mr. de Villiers and baby are visiting the Robertson district on vacation. Bro. and Sister J. Goulden Evans have returned from an extensive business trip and, with both Harvey and Mary at home, are enjoying a family reunion. Bro. Louis Duncan, of Durban, was a visitor at Ramah duing a three-day business trip in Johannesburg. Sister Rea Potgieter is holidaying in Heilbron with her parents.

Port Elizabeth.

Owing to the death of her father, Sister Queenie Everton, President of the Relief Society of P.E., was in East London for a week. We extend our sympathies in this loss. Sister Francis Milburrow spent her vacation in East London. The P.E. Relief Society Bazaar was a fine success and profitable.

Great minds have purposes, others have wishes. Little minds are tamed and subdued by misfortune: but great minds rise above them.—Washington Irving.